

Remarks

Reconsideration of the Office Action is respectfully requested.

As required in the Office Action, headings have been added to the specification, a new title has been provided, and claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to obviate the indefiniteness rejections.

The present invention is directed to a high pressure discharge lamp with improved thermal properties. The lamp is of a type having a substantially elongate bulb with two neck regions and a discharge chamber in a central position. In accordance with the invention, at least one neck region is provided with a reflection layer which extends over a width of at most 10 mm measured from the start of the bulb.

The claims stand rejected under 35USC102 as being anticipated by Seki et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,084,352 or Parham et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,676,579, or being obvious under 35 USC103 over Oom U.S. Patent No. 5,506,464 in view of Seki et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed as they apply to the amended claims which are presented herewith.

Amended claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of original claim 5. Claim 5 was rejected as being anticipated by Seki et al. The Office Action states that Seki discloses that the reflector layer is provided in the neck region over a width of at most 10 mm measured from the start.

Actually, Seki discloses that the width of the reflector layer is at least 10 mm and that it is at least 10 mm measured not from the start of the bulb as recited in claim 1, but from the distal end of the conductive foil (col. 6, lines 60 to 62). As can be clearly seen

by referring to Figure 1 of Seki, the distal end of the conductive foil begins interiorly of the start of the bulb, hence the reflector layer in Seki must extend to a width of more than 10 mm from the start of the bulb. Contrast Figure 1 of the present application with Figure 1 of Seki for a comparison of the different approaches.

Hence, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Seki. Furthermore, it is not obvious either, because Seki teaches away from the present invention. In the specification, lines 8 to 18, it is stated that the width of the reflection layer is limited to 10 mm because a greater width would cause too much heating in the vicinity of the discharge chamber. On the other hand, Seki requires the reflective layer to be in the vicinity of the discharge chamber and thus leads the skilled worker away from the present invention.

The present lamp is advantageously employed in a reflector which, as shown in Figure 1, tends to cause heating near the end of the bulb. Claim 7 and the claims dependent thereon are directed to a reflector lamp where the bulb is situated in a reflector.

In summary, there is no suggestion in the prior art to provide either a lamp or a reflector lamp having a reflection layer at a neck region over a width of at most 10 mm from the start of the bulb. Hence, the skilled worker would have no motivation to modify any of the references cited in this way.

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Atty Docket No. DE 000236

It is thus submitted that all claims in the application are now allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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